



Maryland Department  
of the Environment

## FACTS ABOUT: Recycling

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### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RECYCLING

#### Coordinator/Staff

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#### Waste Diversion Rate

- ▶ For calendar year 2013, 59.53% recycling rate + 5% source reduction credit = 64.53% waste diversion rate.

#### Residential Program

##### *Curbside*

- ▶ The County's residential Single-Stream Recycling Program services approximately 167,000 (98%) single-family households collecting newspaper, telephone books, magazines, corrugated cardboard, catalogs, computer paper, envelopes, file folders, glossy inserts and junk mail, hard and soft cover books, craft paper, office paper-any color, paper board (cereal boxes and cracker boxes), paper grocery bags, shredded paper, wrapping paper, narrow-necked glass and plastic bottles, beverage containers, bleach bottles, detergent bottles, milk and water jugs, wide-mouth containers such as peanut butter, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, margarine, butter tubs, prescription bottles, coat hangers and all metal cans. In addition, 18 municipalities operate their own recycling programs.
- ▶ Every owner of a multi-family rental facility with three or more units must provide recycling opportunities for its tenants.
- ▶ There is special on-premise collection of recyclables for senior citizens over 65 years of age and for disabled persons.

##### *Drop-off*

- ▶ The County has two regional multi-material convenience centers for recycling and trash disposal located at 3501 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, and 12701 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine. Recycling includes materials that are accepted curbside, in addition to rigid



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plastics such as children's outdoor plastic play equipment, 5 gallon water bottles, plastic toys, etc. The Brown Station Road Convenience Center also accepts residential yard waste.

- ▶ Household hazardous waste and electronics may be dropped off at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at no charge for County residents.

## **Recycling Collection for Senior Citizens and the Disabled**

- ▶ The County provides on premise collection of recyclables for senior citizens over 65 years of age and for disabled persons. To qualify, no one living in the home can be under 65 years of age or be physically able to transport the collection containers to the curb. To make arrangements for on premise collection, contact County Click or call 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County).

### *Processing/Marketing*

- ▶ The Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) is a single-stream collection MRF that allows all recyclables to be collected from a single receptacle. Once at the MRF recyclables are separated by material and shipped to end markets.
- ▶ Yard waste is collected curbside and delivered by County contractors to the Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility (Western Branch) where it is composted, marketed and sold as Leafgro by the Maryland Environmental Service (MES). Residents may place yard waste in paper bags or into a reusable can. Plastic bags are not accepted at the County's composting facility.

### *Municipalities*

- ▶ 26 of the County's 27 municipalities now have curbside recycling programs. Eight municipalities participate in the County's Residential Curbside Recycling Program. 18 municipalities operate their own curbside recycling programs.
- ▶ Some municipalities operate drop-off centers.
- ▶ Most municipalities deliver yard waste to Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility, also known as Western Branch.

### *Yard Trimmings*

- ▶ Over 167,000 households are now being provided with weekly curbside collections of yard waste year round. Yard waste collected includes grass, leaves, small brush and Christmas trees. Private and commercial contractors may also have accounts to deliver yard waste to the County's Western Branch Composting Facility where the material is composted and sold as Leafgro. Plastic bags are not accepted. Yard waste must be in paper bags or collected loose by using a collection container such as a can/cart.

## **Other Materials**

- ▶ *Appliances* may be picked-up curbside by making a request through Bulky Trash by County Click or by calling 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County).
- ▶ *Appliances* are also collected at the Brown Station Road Landfill. The County contracts with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to remove CFC's from the *white goods*.



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- ▶ *Tires* are being collected at the landfill and transported to various recycling facilities.
- ▶ *Scrap metal* is collected at the landfill for recycling.
- ▶ *Lead acid batteries, oil, air filters* are recyclable.
- ▶ *Prescription and over-the-counter medications* – The county encourages residents to contact their local pharmacy to learn if there is a take-back program that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Otherwise, safe disposal also includes taking unused, un-needed or expired non-controlled prescription drugs out of their original prescription bottles to protect personal information, crushing medication and placing it in an impermeable, non-descript container such as an empty can or sealable bag, and mixing it with coffee grounds, dirt or kitty litter and then discarding with regular trash. Liquid medication may be handled in the same fashion. Medications are also accepted at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

#### *Household Hazardous Waste*

- ▶ There is a permanent household hazardous waste disposal site located at Brown Station Landfill, 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro. The facility is open to Prince George's County residents and citizens free of charge on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Refer to the County's website for a list of acceptable items or contact County Click or call 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County).

#### *HHW and Electronics Collection for Senior Citizens and the Disabled*

- ▶ Residents who qualify for this service should call contact County Click, or call 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County) to schedule an appointment for the at home collection of household hazardous waste. To qualify, no one living in the home can be under 65 years of age or be physically able to transport the material to the County's facility.

#### *Electronics*

- ▶ *Mouse pointers, keyboards, PCs, monitors and televisions (maximum 5), cell phones, speakers, printers, laptops, surge protectors, copiers, pagers, fax machines, telephone systems, cable, circuit boards, wire, and toner cartridges* are accepted at the electronics drop-off at the Brown Station Landfill, 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro. The facility is open for Prince George's County residents and citizens for free of charge on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Identification will be checked/verified.

### **Commercial Program**

- ▶ The County provides technical assistance to businesses. Call 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County).
- ▶ Business recycling is mandatory and will be enforced. Businesses that utilize the County's MRF may collect recyclables mixed (single-stream) in one container.



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## **Procurement**

- ▶ The County is committed to buying recycled products whenever possible. Per County Executive Order, Prince George's County is a Green County. It includes initiatives on Green Buildings and energy consumption reduction.

## **Public Education & Outreach**

- ▶ The County encourages residents, citizens, businesses, non-profit groups and schools to tour the County's Recycling Facilities. Tours of the MRF may be scheduled by calling 301-499-1707. Tours of the Organics Composting Facility may be arranged by calling 301-627-6487 or 301-627-6388.
- ▶ Recycling educational material, special programs and presentations are provided in County schools, businesses, community events, and other special events by the Recycling Section.
- ▶ Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) is a community driven, non profit, volunteer based organization affiliated with Keep America Beautiful. This organization offers the citizens of Prince George's County a means to improve their environment through its educational and outreach programs. Specifically, the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup which is held annually March 1 through May 31, the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program and the Green Team School Program in partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools.
- ▶ Communities participate in and support these programs through established homeowners and citizen's organizations, municipalities and local schools. If you require additional information, please call 301-833-5843, 311 (or 301-883-4748, if calling from outside of the County).

## **Ordinances**

- ▶ The County licenses all refuse and recycling haulers, and recycling facilities located within the County.
- ▶ An Emergency Act Concerning Solid Waste Recycling set the requirements for recycling in the county, mandated apartment recycling, and gave requirements for business reporting.
- ▶ By July 1, 2014, licensees and owners of all single and multifamily rental facilities and condominiums shall provide an opportunity for tenants to voluntarily recycle designated recyclable material in a same manner as solid waste disposal, including convenient and assessable location with signage.
- ▶ The licensee and owner of each multifamily rental facility and condominium shall submit to the Director for approval a plan for the separation and collection of designated recyclable materials by July 1, 2013. The plan shall demonstrate compatibility with the County's recycling programs. Each multifamily rental facility plan shall include at a minimum: designation of recyclable materials to be collected; a collection system for the designated recyclable materials; and provisions for publicizing the recycling program.
- ▶ Annual reports which accounts for the amount of designated recyclable materials collected must be submitted by the licensees and owners of all multifamily rental facilities and condominiums to the Director on a schedule established by the Director and the report shall include the method of collection, the amount collected and the disposal method of the materials.



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- ▶ All collectors or haulers licensed by the Department, pursuant to Section 21-105, and all solid waste or recycling contracts executed by the County, shall provide for an opportunity for recycling or show evidence to the Director of an agreement or contract for providing recycling services through another entity.
- ▶ By July 1, 2014 the owners of commercial and industrial properties must provide an opportunity at their properties and for tenants, if any, to voluntarily recycle designated recyclable materials.

## **Disposal**

- ▶ Landfill tipping fee is \$59.00/ton residential and commercial. There are reduced rates for appliances at the Brown Station Road Landfill (\$25.00/ton).
- ▶ The Western Branch Composting facility tipping fee is \$45.00/ton for non-County contractors and \$25.00/ton for Prince George's County Municipalities.

## **Financing/Budget**

- ▶ User fees are assessed on condominiums and homes located within the County land participating municipalities.



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